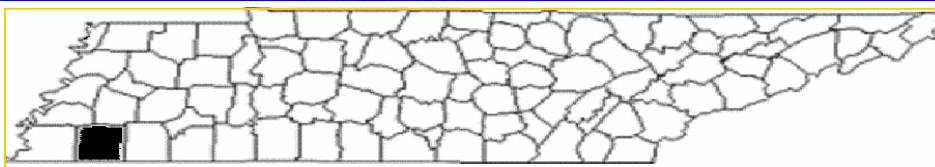


The Status of Women in Fayette County



STATUS OF WOMEN IN FAYETTE COUNTY: AN OVERVIEW

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INDICATOR	DATA	COUNTY RANKING
		(of 95 Counties)
COMPOSITE EMPLOYMENT & EARNINGS INDEX	39.80	27
Women's Annual Earnings	\$24,690	9
Women's Earnings as a Percentage of Men's Earnings (Wage Gap)	73.5%	33
Women's Labor Force Participation Rate	41.3%	55
Female Unemployment Rate	6.9%	67
Women in Managerial or Professional Occupations	28.0%	35
COMPOSITE ECONOMIC AUTONOMY INDEX	52.50	53
Businesses that are Women-Owned (% of total)	19.4%	57
Women with a Four-Year College Degree (%)	10.4%	41
Women With a High School Diploma (%)	71.0%	39
Female High School Dropout Rate	20.8%	95
Women with any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage (%)	95.1%	14
Women Earning Incomes Below the Poverty Level (%)	14.9%	40
Single Female-Headed Households Living In Poverty (%)	10.6%	66
Adolescent Pregnancy Rate (Ages 10-19)	37.7	68

Report Overview: This publication on the Status of Women in Fayette County is part of a statewide publication of the Tennessee Economic Council on Women, *The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties, 2004*. The Economic Council on Women is a State agency created under TCA § 4-50-100, et seq. by the One Hundredth General Assembly in 1998 to address the economic needs of Tennessee women.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

FAYETTE

Women have taken remarkable strides towards economic equality, from education to earnings to political participation. Women are now pursuing goals such as business ownership, leadership roles in their careers, and election to state and federal political office. However, obstacles still exist in the climb toward equality. Nationwide, equal numbers of men and women are obtaining four-year college degrees; however, these gains have not translated into pay equity. The average college-educated woman working full time earns \$44,200 a year compared to \$61,800 for men in the same category. Women are still under-represented in many of the highest paying, fastest growing sectors of the economy. Helping women break into these traditionally male-dominated areas like computer science, engineering, mathematics and technology, as well as all skilled-labor positions, gives women tools for self-sufficiency and understanding of their personal capabilities, and these advances are good for the economy of our counties and of our state.

Employment and Earnings

The employment and earnings index includes data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percent of women in managerial or professional occupations.

- ◇ The only indicator placing Fayette among the top ten counties is women's annual earnings. Women have median annual earnings of \$24,690, which is still almost \$9,000 less than men's annual earnings.
- ◇ Though women's median earnings are high, the wage gap (73.5%) ranks Fayette 33rd among counties.
- ◇ The female unemployment rate in Fayette County is at least 1 percent higher than the overall county rate, and women constitute 45.0% of the county's labor force.
- ◇ 28.0% of employed women work in management or professional occupations which is higher than the percentage of all working county residents employed in management or professional jobs (26.4%).

Economic Autonomy

The economic autonomy index includes information on educational attainment, business ownership and general quality of life issues.

- ◇ The percentage of females with a high school diploma or the equivalent (71.0%) is just above the county rate (70.6%); both percentages are slightly lower than that for all Tennesseans (75.9%).
- ◇ The percentage of women in Fayette County who have a four-year college degree (10.4%) is lower than the percentage of all county residents with a college degree (12.8%). Both rates are lower than the percentage of Tennesseans with at least a bachelor's degree (19.6%).
- ◇ Almost 15% of women in the county earn below poverty level wages.
- ◇ Though 10.9% of families in the county are in poverty, 28.75 of families with a female householder and no husband present are living in poverty.
- ◇ Only 19.4% of the businesses in the county are owned by women but women-owned businesses account for 10.6% of sales and receipts in the county.
- ◇ Women make up 50.9% of the county population and 52.2% of eligible voters in the county but only 3 out of 26 elected county officials are women.

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties

FAYETTE

		Fayette County	Rank of Fayette County	Highest Ranking County
Earnings	Median Annual Earnings for FT Females	\$24,690	9	Williamson: \$32,243
	Wage Gap	73.5%	33	Davidson: 82.1%

Employment	Female Labor Force Partici- pation Rate	41.3%	55	Rutherford: 50.9%
	Female Unemployment Rate	6.9%	67	Pickett: 1.5%
	Percent of Employed Fe- males in Management, Prof., and Related Occupations	28.0%	35	Anderson: 44.6%
	Women Owned Business % of Total	19.4%	57	Moore: 63.3%

Education	% of Females with 4 Year Degree or Better	10.4%	41	Williamson: 39.5%
	% of Females with High School Diploma (or equiva- lency)	71.0%	39	Williamson: 90.6%
	Female Dropout Rate	20.8%	95	Clay/Pickett: 0.0%

Lifestyles	% of Women with any kind of Health Insurance Cover- age	95.1%	14	Williamson: 100%
	% of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	14.9%	40	Williamson: 5.4%
	% of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	10.6%	66	Williamson: 2.5%
	Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	37.7	68	Williamson: 1.2%

ABOUT THE COUNCIL AND THIS REPORT

Fayette County

The Status of Women in Tennessee Counties report offers an economic profile of women in each county of Tennessee and examines how women's rights and equality vary among the counties. The report presents data and overall rankings in two categories of women's economic status: employment and earnings and economic autonomy. Indicators of women's status in each category make up the composite rankings of the counties.

The employment and earnings section presents data on women's annual earnings, the earnings gender gap, female labor force participation rate, the female unemployment rate, and the percentage of women in managerial occupations.

The economic autonomy section includes information on the percentage of businesses owned by women, educational attainment levels, percentage of households headed by a single female, single female headed households living in poverty, percentage of women with health insurance, the high school dropout rate and the teen pregnancy rate.

The **Tennessee Economic Council on Women** was created in 1998 by the Tennessee General Assembly to assess Tennessee women's economic status. The Council develops and advocates solutions to address women's needs in order to help women achieve economic autonomy. In setting its priorities, the Council selects issues that are timely and likely to result in positive changes for women.

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Visit the Tennessee Economic Council on Women at www.tennesseewomen.org

SOURCES	
Earnings and Employment	
Median Annual Earnings for Full Time Employed Females	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Wage Gap (Female Earnings as a Percentage of Earnings)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Labor Force Participation Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Unemployment Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Employed Females in Management, Professional, and Related Occupations	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Economic Autonomy	
Women-owned Business, Percent of total	Economic Census, 1997
Percent of Females w/4yr Degree or Better	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Females with a High School Diploma (or equivalency)	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Female Dropout Rate	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of Women with Any Kind of Health Insurance Coverage	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Percent of Women Living Below Poverty Level Incomes	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Percent of all Female Headed Households with Children in Poverty	U.S Census Bureau, 2000
Rate of Pregnancy of Girls Aged 10-19 per 1000	Tennessee Department of Health, 2002
Voter Demographics and Elected County Officials	National Association of Counties